Immigration

Data and Policy Update, July 2020

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Immigrant Student Success online workshop, July 2020
Clinton, Trump voters sharply diverged on seriousness of an array of problems

% of voters who said each is a ‘very big problem’ in the country today...

Public views on immigration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Important Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economy and jobs</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun policy</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The environment</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign policy</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Public views on immigration

### Immigration policy - immigrants living in the U.S. illegally

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>SHARE</th>
<th>VOTED DEMOCRAT</th>
<th>VOTED REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>VOTED OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offered a chance to apply for legal status</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deported to the country they came from</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Views of immigrants in the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View</th>
<th>SHARE</th>
<th>VOTED DEMOCRAT</th>
<th>VOTED REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>VOTED OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do more to help the country</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do more to hurt the country</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### U.S.-Mexico border wall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>SHARE</th>
<th>VOTED DEMOCRAT</th>
<th>VOTED REPUBLICAN</th>
<th>VOTED OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public views on immigration

Debunking immigration myths
Foreign-born population

Number of Immigrants and Their Share of the Total U.S. Population, 1850-2017

Source: Migration Policy Institute, U.S. Immigration Trends, 2020
Undocumented immigrant population

Source: Migration Policy Institute, “Crisis at the Border? Not by the Numbers,” 2018
Refugee admissions

Source: Migration Policy Institute, U.S. Immigration Trends, 2020
New arrivals: Asians surpass Hispanic immigrants

Fastest-growing states

Source: Migration Policy Institute, "Immigrants in the U.S. States with the Fastest-Growing Foreign-Born Populations," 2018
Immigrants and education

Educational attainment among U.S. immigrants, 1960-2017

% of immigrants ages 25 and older whose highest level of education

- Bachelor’s degree: 17.8%
- Postgraduate degree

Immigrants and education

Source: Brian Duncan and Stephen J. Trejo, "Socioeconomic Integration of U.S. Immigrant Groups Over the Long Term" (working paper), 2018
Immigrants and education

Children in U.S. Immigrant Families:
Number and Share of the Total U.S. Child Population, by Age Group and State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children in immigrant families: 18,011,000
Children in native families: 51,487,000
Share of children from immigrant families: 25.9%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Share of children from immigrant families</th>
<th>Share of children from native families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children with at least one immigrant parent:</td>
<td>Children with at least one immigrant parent:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,194,000</td>
<td>18,011,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of children above who were born in the United States:</td>
<td>Share of children above who were born in the United States:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Migration Policy Institute
Foreign- vs. U.S.-born voting patterns

U.S. born have long had higher voter turnout rates than immigrants

% of ___ eligible voters who say they voted

U.S.-born

Foreign-born

Two-thirds of Asian eligible voters are immigrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Foreign-born</th>
<th>U.S.-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hispanic and Asian voter turnout rates higher among foreign born than U.S. born in presidential elections

% and nativity of ___ eligible voters who say they voted

Immigrants and crime

Are immigrants assets to the U.S.?
Foreign-born share of labor force

Source: Migration Policy Institute, U.S. Immigration Trends, 2020
Immigrants and the labor force

Without future immigrants, working-age population in U.S. would decrease by 2035

Source: Pew Research Center, "Immigration projected to drive growth in U.S. working-age population through at least 2035," 2017
Immigrants and the labor force

Immigrant workers aiding recovery

Source: Migration Policy Institute, “The Essential Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Food Supply Chain,” 2020
Immigrant workers aiding recovery

Source: Migration Policy Institute, “The Essential Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Food Supply Chain,” 2020
Immigrant workers aiding recovery

- **GROCERY STORES**
  - 483,000 immigrants work in grocery stores, representing 16% of the nearly 3 million grocery retail workers.

- **KEY STATES**
  - Immigrants are...
    - 69% of California's agriculture workers
    - 70% of Alaska's seafood processing workers
    - 66% of Nebraska's meat processing workers

*Source: Migration Policy Institute, “The Essential Role of Immigrants in the U.S. Food Supply Chain,” 2020*
Immigrants Feed America

Percent of food service workers who are immigrants: 42.5%
Percent of agricultural workers who are immigrants: 22%
Immigrant population of the U.S.: 13.7%

Immigrants are **13.7%** of the U.S. population but:

- **28%** physicians/surgeons
- **22%** nursing, psychiatric and home health aides
- **15%** nurses
- **40%** medical scientists in manufacturing R&D
- **50+%** biotechnology workers

*Source: The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. and the Institute for Immigration Research at George Mason University, *Immigrants in Health Care: Keeping Americans Healthy Through Care and Innovation*, 2016; Renew Our Economy: America’s Aging Crisis: How Immigration Reform Can Strengthen the U.S. Health Care System, 2015*
# Immigrants in health care by metro area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>Number of Immigrant Healthcare Workers</th>
<th>Immigrant Share of All Healthcare Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>163,433</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>480,742</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>233,270</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>82,811</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>100,441</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside-San Bernadino</td>
<td>47,363</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>82,854</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>101,723</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>42,615</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>105,552</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas-Fort Worth</td>
<td>64,737</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>32,382</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>55,128</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>41,720</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>28,836</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: New American Economy, "Immigrants on the Healthcare Frontlines: A Look at Local Data," 2020*
Immigrant Doctors Fight COVID-19

Percent of physicians who are immigrants:

- 13.7%
- 28.5%

Immigrant population of the U.S.

Immigrant Share of Labor Force

Immigrants Keep American Clean

Immigrants and Social Safety Systems

- Number of seniors will double by 2050
- Ratio of seniors to workers will soar by <70% by 2040
- Immigrants are subsidizing Medicare’s core trust fund
- More workers needed, especially in healthcare

Immigrants and Entrepreneurship

Immigrant share of

- Population: 14%
- Labor Force: 17%
- Business Owners: 19%
- Main Street Business Owners: 30%

Immigrants and job creation
Immigration policy update

On April 22, President Trump signed a “Proclamation Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak.”

- Suspension of visa issuances (exceptions: health care workers, investors, spouses or young children of citizens or LPRs)
- Order may be extended indefinitely (NYT)
- Expected announcement extending and/or broadening restrictions this week
Who this affects

Suspends issuance of green cards to people currently outside the U.S., including:

• Employment-based green cards except for those entering as investors (EB-5)
• Green cards for spouses and children of green card holders
• Green cards for parents, siblings, and adult children of U.S. citizens
• Diversity program green cards ("visa lottery")
Who this exempts

Exempts the following individuals, who can currently enter the U.S.:

• Current LPRs (green card holders)
• Individuals and their spouses/children entering on green cards as medical professionals to do essential work in the COVID-19 crisis
• Spouses and children under 21 of U.S. citizens
• Individuals with an investor visa (EB-5)
• Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses/children
• Individuals who are needed for a law enforcement objective or whose entry would be in the national interest
Naturalization

• Early in pandemic, naturalization ceremonies suspended.
• Now, as with many court cases, drive-thru ceremonies are being hosted to clear backlog.
• However, USCIS in financial trouble as drop in applications (as a result of executive proclamation restrictions) means no fees, which account for 97% of expenditures (total $4.8B budget)
• Nearly 3/4 USCIS workforce could be furloghed as a result, curtailing naturalizing new citizens and voters, especially consequential in states like Michigan and Florida.
Naturalization

• “I wouldn’t be surprised if you have several hundred thousand people who are not in a position to vote in this election but would have been if business had been progressing normally at USCIS,” said Randy Capps of the Migration Policy Institute.

• Behind those waiting for the ceremony are some 700,000 people who have submitted applications for naturalization.

• Since the last year of the Obama administration, they now face an average processing time that has risen from six months to 10 months.
DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

• Supreme Court declared on June 18 that the Trump administration's 2017 attempt to terminate DACA was improper.
• Therefore, current DACA recipients are eligible to renew.
• Technically, USCIS should begin accepting first-time DACA applications as well as applications for advance parole as a result of this ruling. However, Trump administration may attempt to limit these options. Consult an attorney.
• Trump administration will file paperwork to do away with DACA this week.
International students

• International students pursuing degrees will have to leave or be deported if their universities switch to online-only courses and they aren't able to transfer to another university.

• Affects thousands of foreign students who take classes, participate in training programs, or non-academic or vocational studies.

• Travel restrictions for U.S. passengers; countries' borders closed.

• 1.2m students at 8,700 schools (2018, Migration Policy Institute).

• Constitute 5.5% of U.S. higher education enrollment, contributed more than $40 billion in 2019-2020 (Washington Post)
Public charge and COVID-19 care

- USCIS will **not** consider testing, treatment or preventive care (including a vaccine if one becomes available) related to COVID-19 in deciding whether an applicant for a green card is likely to become a “public charge.”
- Unemployment benefits are earned and are **always** exempt from the public charge test.
- Benefits received by other family members, such as food stamps (SNAP) for U.S. citizen children, are **not** counted when determining if a green card applicant is likely to become a public charge.
Unemployment benefits

• DACA recipients who live in California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Texas and New York are eligible for state unemployment benefits.

• American citizens who are married to immigrants without Social Security numbers will not receive stimulus checks as part of the government’s COVID-19 relief efforts.
  —BNi-partisan bills proposed to change this.

• About 1.2 million immigrants who lack legal status are married to a U.S. citizen. This effectively excludes legal immigrants who use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to file taxes.
Bridging Divides in the Immigration Debate

• Anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S. is more passionate than pro-immigrant sentiment
  – Of the Americans who consider immigration the most important voting issue, far more oppose immigration than support it.
Bridging Divides in the Immigration Debate

• The “Wings” are increasing in size, the “middle” is fast decreasing.

• The politically disengaged tend to veer right

• Both race and economics are driving Americans farther right
Bridging Divides in the Immigration Debate

• For change to take place, we need to connect with working class Americans

• Find ways to build broad, local support bases

• Go back to the basics, and connect with values, issues and humanity
Thank you

Learn how to change the immigration conversation at
www.ilctr.org/promoting-immigrants

Online library of >1,000 immigration reports:
www.immigrationresearch.org

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http://iir.gmu.edu/

dmohammed@ilctr.org